

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 1

Coming Events

February 11 – “Fish on the Fence” Annual fundraising event for Feiro Marine Life Center and Lincoln High Commercial Art. Call 417-6254 for more information.

February 19 – FMLC lecture series presents “Hydrothermal Vents” Call 417-6254 to reserve a seat.

February 22 – OCDC Brown Bag lunch at noon in our classroom – guest speaker to be announced

March 29 – OCDC Brown Bag lunch

April 7 – Ice Cream Social for all new and returning OCDC volunteers

April 18-20 – Volunteers from Shaw Ocean Discovery Center in Port Angeles

April 23 – Washington Coastal Cleanup and Port Angeles Harbor Cleanup



Port Angeles Waterfront Redevelopment

Deputy Mayor Don Perry presented the proposed waterfront redevelopment plans for Port Angeles at our brown bag lunch on January 25. The proposal includes the creation of three sandy pocket beaches, picnic sites along the shoreline, new lighting in the downtown area, a promenade along Railroad Avenue between Laurel and Oak Streets, and new signage that will help visitors find the OCDC as well as other waterfront attractions. Eventually there may even be an elevated walkway from the north end of the Landing pier across the water to the north end of City Pier! While the entire plan is too costly to be completed in the coming year, at least the beaches and new signage are expected to be finished by summer.

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Thank You, Volunteers

Fourteen OCDC volunteers were recognized for their years of service to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary at the brown bag lunch on January 25. Bruce Ferguson, Bill Bjorklund, Anita Colvin, Rose Forbes, Art Ayres, Jaci Pumphrey, Jim and Becky Jewell received 5-year pins; while Sherrill Bjorklund, Genie DeVine, Jim Lamont, Veronica Ayres, Lisbeth Jardine, and Douglas Parks were recognized for volunteering 3 years. Also recognized were Jim Fedderly and Carol Huard, who have volunteered since 2009, and Gerri Ferguson and James Keehn who joined us in 2010. Families who hosted volunteers from Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary last July were also recognized. Huards, Fedderlys, Lamonts, Jewells, Moriartys, Heidi Pedersen and Rose Forbes each received a unique parcel of the ocean from Dan Basta and The Ocean Registry. Everyone present enjoyed the dessert buffet, especially Jacqueline's gorgeous cake and delicious brownies.

Wildlife and Oil Spills in the Pacific Northwest

Wildlife and Oil Spills in the Pacific Northwest was the topic of the Feiro presentation on January 22. Mike Doherty opened the event with the statement that more than 4,000 vessel transports and 15 billion gallons of oil regularly travel to and from ports in the Northwest Straits and Puget Sound each year, and that a major oil spill could cost 165,000 jobs and \$10.8 billion in economic impacts alone.

Curt Clumpner of the International Bird Rescue Research Center continued the presentation. "As long as we use oil there will be spills," he said. "People make mistakes. We need to be prepared."

He reviewed major spills in our area since 1985, presenting statistics about how much oil was spilled and how many seabirds were affected. During the 1985 spill in the Port Angeles harbor 1530 birds were treated, but only about 20% were saved. Clumpner admitted, "We didn't do a very good job then, but we learn more every time." He said that the percent of birds saved also depends on the species, the time of year, and how quickly the birds are rescued.



Bob Boekelheide, Director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, discussed the vulnerability of Salish Sea marine birds to oil spills. He stressed the importance of collecting data, and said that probably twice as many birds die in oil spills as are recovered, either dead or alive. Of special concern are birds such as red-necked grebes and white-wing scoters whose populations are already declining; their populations are much less likely to recover. When asked why some species are in decline, Boekelheide said a big part of the problem is the decline of forage fish. He said these fish could probably not be "farmed," and that our best hope is habitat restoration and protection.

Andy Carlson, Oiled Wildlife Response Coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, ended the evening by discussing the importance of having a coordinated, organized response plan based on knowledge of birds' needs. By law oil companies must have the capacity to arrive on the scene of an oil spill within 24 hours. As a result, there are two mobile oiled wildlife response units that can be anywhere in the state in 24 hours, each equipped to handle 100 oiled birds. While these provide the response facility and leadership, there is a huge need for trained volunteers to assist with a wide variety of tasks, including washing oiled birds as well as other supporting roles. HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations) training is offered in our area every year in January to encourage volunteers to be prepared in case the unthinkable happens here.

Feiro Lecture Series continues February 19

On Saturday February 19th, Alden Denny, graduate student at the University of Washington who has participated in research fellowships at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the US Geological Survey, will present a lecture on Hydrothermal Vents. His current research projects include the creation of highly detailed geologic maps of the Lost City Hydrothermal Field based on 2000, 2003, and 2005 cruise data, high-resolution geologic mapping of the Endeavour hydrothermal system, and the development of a robust metadata capture system for HD video from submersible vehicles. The event will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm at Feiro Marine Life Center. Please call 360-417-6254 to reserve a seat. A \$5 donation is suggested.

OCDC Brown Bag Lunches

Many thanks to everyone who completed and returned the OCDC volunteer questionnaire. One often repeated comment was that even though training is enjoyable and educational volunteers want more training or more information before they feel completely at ease in greeting guests and answering their questions. First, please remember that "I don't know, but let's find out," is always an appropriate answer, and you will always have a staff member available to assist you at a moment's notice. Also, in response to your comments we will offer a brown bag lunch and informational speaker once each month beginning on Tuesday, February 22 and continuing on Tuesday, March 29. Watch for an email later in the month with more information about our guest speaker. If Tuesday afternoons do not work for you, but you would still like to participate, please suggest an alternate day or time for future events; and let me know if there are particular topics or displays that you would like to learn more about.

OCDC Volunteer Advisory Committee

It's also been suggested that we create a volunteer advisory committee that could help plan enrichment activities, help create and organize reference materials in the OCDC, and possibly set up a mentoring program between new and veteran volunteers. Please contact me if you would like to be part of this and help make volunteering more interesting and rewarding for everyone.

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Ice Cream Social on April 7

We will kick off our volunteer training program this year with an ice cream social at 2:00 on Thursday, April 7 for all new and returning volunteers. We hope to have many of you talk to the newcomers about aspects of volunteering that you especially enjoy and find rewarding. We'll also have the OCDC open for tours. If you can join us for this event please contact me and let me know one or two of the events – field trips, boat rides, tours, guest speakers, etc – that you would like to share with others. Volunteer training continues every Thursday morning through May 19.

Shaw volunteer exchange in April

About a dozen volunteers from the Shaw Ocean Discovery Center in Sidney, British Columbia are planning a trip to Port Angeles April 18 through 20. They are especially hoping to watch our education program in action, including a beach seine at Feiro Marine Life Center and classes in the Olympic Coast Discovery Center. On the evening that they are in town we will all meet for a potluck supper at FMLC. We may also schedule a morning tidepool walk the next day. If you were not at lunch on January 25, but would like to be involved, please contact me. OCDC volunteers will probably be invited to Sidney in late May or early June.



The Museum at the Carnegie

I recently toured the Museum at the Carnegie at 207 S Lincoln for the first time and would like to recommend it to anyone who hasn't been there. Very well-done displays offer a glimpse of life from Clallam County's past. "Strong People: Faces of Clallam County" introduces people who helped build our community, including early settlers, loggers, lighthouse keepers and Native Americans. Displays also examine the issues behind the creation of Olympic National Park, and showcase the maritime heritage of our area, including all the shipwrecks. Hours for the Museum at the Carnegie are Wednesday thru Saturday from 1-4 pm. The handicapped entrance and parking are located in back of the building. Suggested donations are \$2 for adults and \$5 for families. This is a great way to spend a rainy afternoon when there is not much to do outside.